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RONALD J. DUNLAVEY

SECRETARY KISSINGER'S RETURN

ANNCR: VOA NEWS ANALYST RONALD J. DUNLAVEY HAS THESE THOUGHTS ABOUT SECRETARY KISSINGER'S MISSION WHICH CONCLUDED WITH HIS RETURN TO WASHINGTON SUNDAY:

VOICE: THE MAIN PURPOSE OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S TRIP TO MOSCOW WAS TO TALK TO THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP ABOUT THE STATE OF STRATEGIC ARMS NEGOTIATIONS. AND A SECOND IMPORTANT SUBJECT WAS ANGOLA. BUT AS HE RETURNED TO WASHINGTON SUNDAY, TWO OTHER ASPECTS OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY HAD USURPED THE HEADLINES. ONE WAS THE NEW TREATY WITH SPAIN. AND THE OTHER WAS THE REPORT---CARRIED IN VARIOUS NEWSPAPERS--- THAT PRESIDENT FORD IS PLANNING TO VISIT THE MIDDLE EAST IN APRIL AS PART OF A UNITED STATES EFFORT TO STIMULATE NEGOTIATIONS THERE.

THE TREATY WITH SPAIN---WHICH MR. KISSINGER SIGNED IN MADRID ON HIS WAY HOME FROM MOSCOW---IS REGARDED AS A SIGNIFICANT ONE. IT PROVIDES FOR CONTINUED AMERICAN USE OF FOUR IMPORTANT AIR AND NAVAL BASES IN SPAIN---SOMETHING WHICH IS BOUND TO STRENGTHEN NATO'S DEFENSES EVEN THROUGH SPAIN IS NOT A MEMBER OF NATO. BUT THE NEW AGREEMENT IS MORE THAN JUST A MILITARY PACT. IT IS A "TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION," WHICH PROVIDES FOR CLOSER RELATIONS IN ECONOMIC, EDUCATIONAL, CULTURAL, SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND AGRICULTURAL MATTERS. IT UNQUESTIONABLY EXPRESSES AMERICAN SYMPATHY AND MORAL SUPPORT FOR SPAIN AS IT ENTERS A NEW ERA OF GRADUAL DEMOCRATIZATION. (OPT.) THE UNITED STATES IS OBVIOUSLY COUNTING ON THIS PROCESS OF DEMOCRATIZATION---INDEED, IT IS DOUBTFUL WHETHER THE TREATY WOULD HAVE MUCH OF A CHANCE OF RATIFICATION BY THE SENATE IF THE NEW SPANISH GOVERNMENT

HAD NOT GIVEN ASSURANCES THAT IT WAS MOVING IN THE DIRECTION OF GREATER DOMESTIC FREEDOM. THE NEW TREATY, AN EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT AND CONFIDENCE BY THE UNITED STATES, IS INTENDED TO ENCOURAGE THIS PROCESS AND TO BRING SPAIN---AS MR. KISSINGER PUT IT---INTO THE MAINSTREAM OF WESTERN POLITICAL VALUES. (END OPT)

THERE IS NOTHING OFFICIAL ABOUT THE REPORTED PLANS FOR PRESIDENT FORD TO VISIT THE MIDDLE EAST---BUT THE REPORTS THEMSELVES ARE WIDESPREAD ENOUGH TO INDICATE THAT MR. FORD AND SECRETARY KISSINGER MAY WELL HAVE SUCH PLANS IN MIND. ACCORDING TO THESE REPORTS, THE UNITED STATES IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE SLOWDOWN OF MIDDLE EAST PEACE NEGOTIATIONS, AND IS CONSIDERING A NEW INITIATIVE, BEGINNING THIS WEEK WHEN ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER RABIN VISITS WASHINGTON. OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT THE FORD ADMINISTRATION WOULD PARTICULARLY LIKE TO DISPEL THE WIDELY-CIRCULATED IDEA THAT MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATING PROGRESS IS IMPOSSIBLE IN AN AMERICAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION YEAR. (OPT.) WASHINGTON IS KNOWN TO BE STILL CONVINCED THAT ONE DEFINITE STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION WOULD BE TO CONVENE A PRELIMINARY MEETING WHICH COULD LAY PLANS FOR THE GENEVA MIDEAST CONFERENCE WHICH EVERYBODY SEEMS TO FAVOR BUT WHICH IS BESET BY THE STUMBLING-BLOCK OF PALESTINIAN RECOGNITION. THE FEELING HERE IS THAT A PRELIMINARY MEETING MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIND NEW AND USEFUL APPROACHES TO THIS PROBLEM. (END OPT.)

AS FOR THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE TRIP TO MOSCOW---THE STRATEGIC ARMS AGREEMENT--- SECRETARY KISSINGER HIMSELF HAS SAID THAT "SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS" WAS MADE, AND THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL RESPOND IN TWO OR THREE WEEKS TO SOME NEW IDEAS INTRODUCED BY THE RUSSIANS. ON ANGOLA, THERE

APPARENTLY WAS NO SIGN OF SOVIET COOPERATION IN ARRANGING A WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN POWERS. WASHINGTON, HOWEVER, HAS MADE ITS VIEWS KNOWN, AND MR. KISSINGER SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL BE WATCHING SOVIET ACTIONS IN THE LIGHT OF AMERICAN OBJECTIONS TO MOSCOW'S POLICIES IN ANGOLA. IT MIGHT BE NOTED, IN PASSING, THAT THERE ARE NOW WIDESPREAD REPORTS OF A SOUTH AFRICAN WITHDRAWAL. IF THESE REPORTS ARE CORRECT, WHAT LITTLE EXCUSE THERE WAS FOR MASSIVE SOVIET AND CUBAN INTERVENTION IS NO LONGER VALID.

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